

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1907 - HB 1967

March 12, 2020

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the court to appoint a guardian ad litem in additional circumstances, including the following:

- A child who has been the subject of two or more reports of brutality, abuse, neglect, or child sex abuse within the previous year regardless of whether reports resulted in an investigation by the Department of Children's Services (DCS);
- A child who has been the subject of a report of brutality, abuse, neglect, or child sex abuse by the child's teacher or medical provider;
- When the child is referred to the DCS as a result of a positive drug screen that is based on the parent's drug use, including a positive drug screen at birth; or
- When requested by a law enforcement officer, officer of the court, employee of the local education agency the child attends, or medical provider based on concern for the child's well-being.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is the entity responsible for paying guardian ad litem.
- Based on information obtained from the AOC, this legislation is codifying processes that are currently contemplated, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-149(a)(1), which states: "The court, in any proceeding under this part resulting from a report of harm or an investigation report under §§ 37-1-401 - 37-1-411, shall appoint a guardian ad litem for the child who was the subject of the report."
- This legislation is estimated to have no significant impact on the current total payments made to guardian ad litem by the AOC; therefore, no significant impact on state government.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/jdb